

STATEMENT OF RALPH W. MCGEHEE
AUTHOR OF
DEADLY DECEITS MY 25 YEARS IN THE CIA
AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FUND FOR OPEN
INFORMATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

BEFORE
THE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ON
PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO REMOVE CERTAIN CIA FILES FROM THE REQUIREMENTS
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

17 MAY 1984

I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE TO EXPRESS THE CONCERNS OF THE FUND FOR OPEN
INFORMATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY, INC. RE THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION.
I AM A RETIRED CIA OFFICER WHO EARNED NUMEROUS AWARDS AND MEDALS
INCLUDING THE CIA'S PRESTIGIOUS CAREER INTELLIGENCE MEDAL. WHILE IN
THE CIA I HAD EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT AND FILE
SYSTEM MANAGEMENT IN THE DIRECTORATE OF OPERATIONS. I AM ALSO
KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE FILE SYSTEMS OF THE DIRECTORATE OF SUPPORT
AND THE DIRECTORATE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. ONE OF MY SUGGESTIONS
RESULTED IN A MAJOR CHANGE IN THE PROCESSES FOLLOWED IN THE VARIOUS
DIRECTORATE FILE SYSTEMS.

I AT ONE TIME SUPERVISED A VAST FILE REVIEW COVERING A PERIOD
OF SOME MONTHS. MY EXPERIENCE DISPROVES CIA CLAIMS THAT IT CANNOT
ADEQUATELY HANDLE FCIA REQUESTS. SUCH CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED QUICKLY
IF THERE IS THE INTENT TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FOIA ACT.
THE CIA HAS ONE OF THE WORST RECORDS IN RESPONDING TO FOIA REQUESTS
NOT DUE TO THE DIFFICULTY OF THE TASK BUT BECAUSE OF ITS DELIBERATE
DELAYS.

THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION EXEMPTS FROM THE PROVISIONS OF FOIA THE FILES OF THE DIRECTORATE OF OPERATIONS WHICH DOCUMENT THE CONDUCT OF FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE OR COUNTERINTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS OR INTELLIGENCE OR SECURITY LIAISON ARRANGEMENTS OR INFORMATION EXCHANGES WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS OR THEIR INTELLIGENCE SERVICES. AS NOTED IN THE U.S. SENATE'S CHURCH COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION OF THE CIA, LIAISON OPERATIONS ARE A VAST MAJORITY OF ITS TOTAL OPERATIONS. A ROUGH ESTIMATE INDICATES THAT SOME 80 TO 90 PERCENT OF ITS FILES WOULD FALL INTO THE LIAISON CATEGORY AND THEREFORE WOULD BE EXEMPT FROM FOIA PROVISIONS.

IN THE 1960'S AND EARLY 1970'S THE CIA CONDUCTED AN ILLEGAL OPERATION CALLED MHCHAOS. MHCHAOS ASSETS MONITORED VIA LIAISON WITH FOREIGN SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE SERVICES LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY-BASED DOMESTIC DISSIDENTS. THE CIA BURGLARIZED THEIR HOTEL ROOMS, THEIR HOMES AND BUGGED THEIR CONVERSATIONS. VIA SUCH LIAISON ACTIVITY MHCHAOS COMPILED FILES ON ONE THOUSAND DOMESTIC ORGANIZATIONS AND INDEXED THE NAMES OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS. INFORMATION ABOUT SUCH ILLEGAL OPERATIONS WOULD BE DENIED FOIA REQUESTS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION.

THE DIRECTORATE OF OPERATIONS UNILATERALLY AND IN LIAISON WITH OTHER SECURITY SERVICES SPONSORED THE WRITING OF MORE THAN A THOUSAND BOOKS. IT PLANTED INFORMATION IN THE U.S. MEDIA VIA FOREIGN ASSETS. IT SUBVERTED AND USED, FREQUENTLY VIA LIAISON OPERATIONS, RELIGIOUS, LABOR, VETERAN, YOUTH, STUDENT, TEACHER AND BUSINESS GROUPS. ALL OF THIS INFORMATION WOULD BE EXEMPT FROM THE PROVISIONS OF FOIA.

THE DIRECTORATE OF OPERATIONS, IN LIAISON WITH FOREIGN SECURITY SERVICES, ATTEMPTED TO ASSASSINATE FOREIGN LEADERS. IN THE LAST FEW YEARS THE DDO HAS, IN LIAISON WITH FOREIGN SECURITY SERVICES, PLANTED A "COMMUNIST" WEAPONS SHIPMENT AND FORGED DOCUMENTS TO DECEIVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND CONGRESS TO GET THEM TO SUPPORT ITS COVERT ACTION GOALS. THESE AND UNDOUBTABLY NUMEROUS OTHER SUCH INCIDENTS OCCUR WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF CONGRESS OR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND DETAILS OF SUCH WOULD BE DENIED FOIA QUERIES UNDER THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION.

THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION WOULD EXEMPT FROM FOIA REVIEW FILES OF THE DIRECTORATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WHICH DOCUMENT THE MEANS BY WHICH FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE OR COUNTERINTELLIGENCE IS COLLECTED THROUGH SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SYSTEMS.

IN THE PAST THE DIRECTORATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TESTED, ON UNWITTING SUBJECTS, A VARIETY OF DRUGS AND MIND ALTERING TECHNIQUES. ONE U.S. ARMY COLONEL COMMITTED SUICIDE AFTER BEING SUBJECTED TO SUCH TESTING. THE DDS&T HAS ALSO EXPERIMENTED IN THE EFFECTS OF RADIATION, ELECTRIC SHOCK, PSYCHOLOGICAL, SOCIOLOGICAL AND HARASSMENT TECHNIQUES. DETAILS OF THESE ILLEGAL AND DANGEROUS OPERATIONS WOULD BE DENIED THE PUBLIC UNDER THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION.

THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION WOULD EXEMPT THE FILES OF THE OFFICE OF SECURITY WHICH DOCUMENT INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED TO DETERMINE THE SUITABILITY OF POTENTIAL FOREIGN OR COUNTERINTELLIGENCE SOURCES.

IN THE PAST THE OFFICE OF SECURITY HAS MASSIVELY VIOLATED U.S. LAW USING SUCH JUSTIFICATIONS.

OSTENSIBLY LOOKING FOR FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC DISSIDENCE THE OS VIA OPERATION MERRIMAC INFILTRATED MORE THAN 10 ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING THE WASHINGTON ETHICAL SOCIETY, THE WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE, THE CONGRESS FOR RACIAL EQUALITY, THE WOMENS STRIKE FOR PEACE, THE HUMANIST SOCIETY AND THE URBAN LEAGUE.

ANOTHER OS PROJECT, RESISTANCE, WAS OSTENSIBLY DESIGNED TO PROTECT AGENCY RECRUITERS ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES BUT SOON EXPANDED INTO A MAJOR INTELLIGENCE EXCHANGE OPERATION WITH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICE SERVICES. IN ADDITION THE OS SURVEILLED NUMEROUS INDIVIDUALS, USED 32 WIRETAPS, BUGGED 32 INSTALLATIONS AND BROKE INTO 12 ESTABLISHMENTS.

THE FILES OF THE OS AS OF MID 1975 CONTAINED OVER 900,000 FILES AND 950,000 CARD INDEXES ON OTHER INDIVIDUALS. THE OS HAD SECURITY FILES ON 75 SITTING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. VIRTUALLY ALL OF THIS INFORMATION WOULD BE REMOVED FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE FOIA ACT UNDER THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION.

IN THIS CURRENT ERA OF POLITICAL INTOLERANCE WHEN THE ADMINISTRATION HAS REWRITTEN THE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM TO ASSURE MORE INFORMATION IS CLASSIFIED, HAS RESTRICTED THE FLOW OF FILMS INTO AND OUT OF THE COUNTRY, HAS ATTEMPTED -- BUT WAS FOILED BY CONGRESSIONAL ACTION -- TO SUBJECT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO LIFETIME CENSORSHIP, HAS THREATENED UNIVERSITIES CONCERNING THEIR RIGHT TO PUBLISH AND DISCUSS UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION AND NOW ATTACKS THE FOIA IN THIS AND FUTURE LEGISLATION I SUGGEST THAT THE OVERRIDING OBJECTIVE OF CONGRESS SHOULD BE TO VIGOROUSLY PROTECT AND EXPAND RATHER THAN LIMIT THE FOIA ACT.

THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION PERMITS THE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS, THE INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT BOARD AND THREE ELEMENTS OF THE CIA (SIC) TO REQUEST SEARCH AND REVIEW. THE CIA HAS NEVER VOLUNTEERED TO CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT THE DETAILS OF ITS ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES; ITS DRUG TESTING/MIND CONTROL OPERATIONS, ITS MAIL OPENING ACTIVITIES, ITS PENETRATION OF AMERICAN ACADEMIA, MEDIA, LABOR; STUDENTS, YOUTH, RELIGIOUS AND OTHER GROUPS, ITS SURVEILLANCE OF AMERICAN NEWSMEN, ITS ILLEGAL BREAKINS OF HOMES AND FOREIGN EMBASSIES, ITS MASSIVE AND TOTALLY ILLEGAL CHAOS OPERATION AIMED AT AMERICAN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, ITS ATTEMPTS VIA FOREIGN LIAISON TO ASSASSINATE FOREIGN LEADERS AND NUMEROUS OTHER ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES. EVEN THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WAS NOT BRIEFED ON 70 TO 80 PERCENT OF ITS COVERT OPERATIONS.

IT IS RELEVANT TO NOTE THAT THE MAJOR INVESTIGATIONS OF THE CIA BY CONGRESS HAVE BEEN TRIGGERED BY MEDIA EXPOSÉS BASED IN A LARGE PART ON INFORMATION ACQUIRED VIA THE PROVISIONS OF FOIA. CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES DO NOT HAVE THE MANPOWER TO DELVE INTO ALL THE MYRIAD AREAS OF ILLEGAL CIA OPERATIONS -- AND THE CIA HAS PROVED THAT IT WILL NOT VOLUNTEER SUCH INFORMATION TO CONGRESS. TO APPROVE THIS LEGISLATION IS TO UNLEASH, WITH SMALL OPPORTUNITY OF DISCOVERY, THE TERRIBLE REALITIES OF SECRET GOVERNMENT, TO WEAKEN OUR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND TO REINFORCE CURRENT POLICIES OF CREATING A NATIONAL POLICE STATE. I FERVENTLY HOPE THAT SOMETHING CAN BE DONE TO PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING. THANK YOU.

THIS TESTIMONY WAS SUBMITTED TO THE CIA FOR PREPUBLICATION REVIEW.